

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 SCA-01 L-01

CIAE-00 PPT-01 /034 W

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R 150930Z JUL 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5973

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1294

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA OGEN KN CH US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PROFESSOR'S PLANNED TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA

REF: STATE 165954

1. PROFESSOR YOUNG C. KIM CALLED AT USLO LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS HIS PLANS FOR TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA.

2. KIM SAID THAT ON HIS TWO PREVIOUS TRIPS TO PYONGYANG IN THE FALL OF 1974 AND THE FALL OF 1975 HE WAS GIVEN AUDIENCES WITH MEMBERS OF THE NORTH KOREAN POLITBURO AND RANKING GOVERNMENT FIGURES, AND THAT FOLLOWING EACH OF THE TRIPS HE BRIEFED THE DEPARTMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY HE PUBLISHED HIS FINDINGS IN THE JANUARY 1975 AND JANUARY 1976 ISSUES OF ASIAN SURVEY.

3. THIS TRIP WAS PLANNED ON SHORT NOTICE. RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FROM A YEAR'S SABBATICAL IN JAPAN, HE FOUND A LETTER OF INVITATION DATED JUNE 22. HE DECIDED IMMEDIATELY TO ACCEPT AND, THROUGH THE PERSONAL INTERCESSION OF PRCLO'S AMBASSADOR HAN HSU -- WHOM KIM DESCRIBES AS A "FRIEND", HE RECEIVED A PRC VISA IMMEDIATELY. HE BOARDED A FLIGHT FOR PEKING, WHERE HE WAS MET ON JULY 7

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BY NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICERS.

4. KIM WAS TOLD THAT HIS BELATED ARRIVAL HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH THE NORTH KOREAN POLIT-BURO MEMBERS, WHO BY THEN HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY AND WOULD NOT RETURN FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. (KIM DID NOT REVEAL WHICH MEMBERS THEY WERE.) KIM SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED DOWN AN OFFER TO VISIT PYONGYANG ON AN ESSENTIALLY PLEASURE EXCURSION. HE LEFT PEKING FOR WASHINGTON VIA TOKYO ON JULY 13. HE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE A FOLLOWUP INVITATION TO MAKE HIS VISIT SOMETIME IN THE FALL.

5. KIM SPECULATES THAT PYONGYANG SEES IN HIM FIRST AN "INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN KOREAN COMMUNITY" WITH WHICH THE NORTH KOREANS ARE "VERY INTERESTED" IN ESTABLISHING CONTACTS. FURTHER, KIM BELIEVES THAT PYONGYANG WISHES TO PASS A MESSAGE THROUGH HIM TO THE DEPARTMENT. (KIM WOULD NOT ELABORATE ON THE EXPECTED CONTENT.) ONLY LAST ARE THEY INTERESTED IN HIS VIEWS CONCERNING HIS ACADEMIC SPECIALTY: JAPANESE POLITICS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JAPAN-USSR AND JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS.

GATES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01294
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760274-0117
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760755/aaaabwfx.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 165954
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <21 MAY 2004 by woolflhd, 3.4.X1>; RELEASED <15 SEP 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PROFESSOR'S PLANNED TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA
TAGS: OTRA, OGEN, KN, CH, US, (KIM, YOUNG C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006